

**METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION
YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL/TUCSON TEEN CONGRESS (YAC/TTC)
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2016
PIMA COUNTY LIBRARY LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM,
101 N. STONE AVE., TUCSON, ARIZONA
MEETINGS MINUTES**

Members Present: Maggie Zheng, David Ojeda, Arnolito Martinez, Leshawn Bowen, Ki Huang, Jazmin Nunez, Angel Alcorcha, Ev Essif, Madeline Zheng, Patrick Derrig, Kyle Hetherington, Diego Martinez Barrera, Nia Moran, Aaditee Kudrimoti, Brennen Fedder, Ana Mendoza.

Non-Members Present: Senator Steve Farley, Representative Chris Ackerley, Paul Lovelis, Ed Nossem, Nancy Rodriguez.

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER – DAVID OJEDA
Meeting called to order at 6:05 P.M.
- 2.0 ROLL CALL – DAVID OJEDA
Roll was called; a quorum of members was present.
- 3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – DAVID OJEDA
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all attendees.
- 4.0 APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 16, 2015 MEETING MINUTES – DAVID OJEDA
Motion to approve December 16, 2015 minutes: Kyle Hetherington
Second: Arnolito Martinez
Minutes approved unanimously.
- 5.0 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT DAY PRESENTATION – PAUL LOVELIS & PRESENTERS
Senator Steve Farley AZ District 9, and Representative Chris Ackerley, AZ District 2, presented to the group on the State Legislature in preparation for our March 2, 2016 Civic Engagement Day. Senator Farley urged the students to register to vote if they are of age, and to vote in every election, not just the national elections. He outlined the current state of education funding from the state legislature, and the background behind Proposition 123, the May 17th Special Election on school funding. He recommended bringing personal stories as well as solid information to the meetings with legislators.
Representative Ackerley outlined his role as a Republican Southern Arizona representative, and discussed the various issues and problems that arise in representing District 2, which stretches along the I-19 corridor from Tucson to the Mexican Border. He and Senator Farley offered their views of the current state of the Legislature and the issue of the Phoenix metropolitan area holding the vast majority of power in the state. Both Senator Farley and Representative Ackerley answered questions from the students. Each legislator that we will meet with will have a different set of priorities and opinions, and will deal with our groups according to these.

6.0 EVERYONE MATTERS DAY DISCUSSION – PAUL LOVELIS & ED NOSSEM

Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild has requested that the YAC/TTC be the local representative youth group for the National Everyone Matters Day. On April 12, 2016, “Everyone Matters Day,” Mayors and City Halls from across the U.S. and globally come together to celebrate the contribution of all citizens in making that city vibrant, and bring a healing message of acceptance and inclusiveness; with events that are unifying, celebrating everyone’s value, and promoting positive human values. The cities of Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, San Antonio, Austin, Portland, Milwaukee, Calgary, Winston-Salem, Albuquerque, Tucson, Durham, Cape Town and other cities across the U.S. and beyond are participating.

Various ideas were presented for the event, including a Snap Chat across schools, utilizing competition between schools, focus on introverted people, people with mental & physical disabilities, and featuring people who can promote being different and successful, such as former YAC/TTC member and motivational speaker Jessica Cox.

The Everyone Matters Day Committee volunteers are Brenden Fedder, Maggie Zheng, Aadittee Kudrimoti, Kyle Hetherington, and David Ojeda. Paul Lovelis will contact the Mayor’s office to see if Karla Avalos Soto can participate in the discussions.

7.0 PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY – KENDRA DAVEY

No action.

8.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Diego Martinez Barrera announced the Mi Familia Vota trip to Phoenix and asked for confirmations from YAC/TTC members who plan to attend. They will be departing from Tucson at 5:30 a.m. on Monday, January 18th, 2016, departing from 877 S. Alvernon Way.

Ed Nossem distributed Media Release forms that parents of students under 18 should sign if the students wishes to be photographed.

Leshawn Bowen spoke of the need for a new approach when speaking to legislators on Civic Engagement Day, we need an endgame. Paul Lovelis discussed this in the context of the MEC’s 501 c3 status.

9.0 CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No action.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion to approve: David Ojeda

Second: Maggie Zheng

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m